7: Gulick E-5 (1952) 1955 ME1 Lebanon ME1

FORMAL INSTITUTIONS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

STORES

THE two stores which are not in the *sahn* are small, specialized, and not always open. They will not be considered further. Another store building was closed throughout the period of study. The four remaining stores are located in the *sahn*, two (under one roof) on the north side of the main road. One of these is owned by a man of lineage C,XVI, the other by a man of lineage A,III. The building itself is owned by a man of lineage C,XXI. The two stores on the south side of the main road are both somewhat larger than the other two and longer established, going back at least to World War I. Both are owned by members of lineage B,XII. All of these stores are "general stores" from the point of view of the merchandise they carry, and from the point of view of their function as meeting places for the men of the village. 444

In two of the stores, the one in building 8 and one of those in building 6 (see Fig. 3), the proprietor of each is regularly assisted by one of his sons. The other two work alone for the most part. (The son of one of the latter has recently opened his own store in Hilwi.) To some extent, there is some specialization. The gasoline-driven mill, mentioned earlier, is part of the store in building 8 whose proprietor, at the beginning of the study period, was employing a man of lineage A,VIII (his wife's brother) as miller. Grain was imported and ground to flour which was sold in the village and the Qarni. During the period of study, it was decided that this operation was not profitable, it being more practical all around to import flour. The proprietor of the store in building 10 is a butcher who both slaughters animals and sells meat. He also slaughters for the people in Jiddayil. The unassisted proprietor of the store in building 6 sometimes sells meat but does not slaughter animals himself. The proprietor of the other store in building 6, established for only one year, is the priest. [256]

By and large, the stores carry the same goods at, apparently, the same fixed prices. There is no barter. Negotiations are carried out on a cash-and-carry basis, and every sale is recorded item by item. An informal and composite inventory includes the following: flour, rice, grain, peas, beans, coffee beans, sugar and nuts (set about on the floor in open sacks with prices per kilogram written on tags); vegetables and fruits (in season) set on the floor or large trays or in baskets; eggs, hung from the ceiling in wire baskets; various types of hard and chewy [437]